Duckabush Estuary Restoration Project Newsletter

Fall 2019

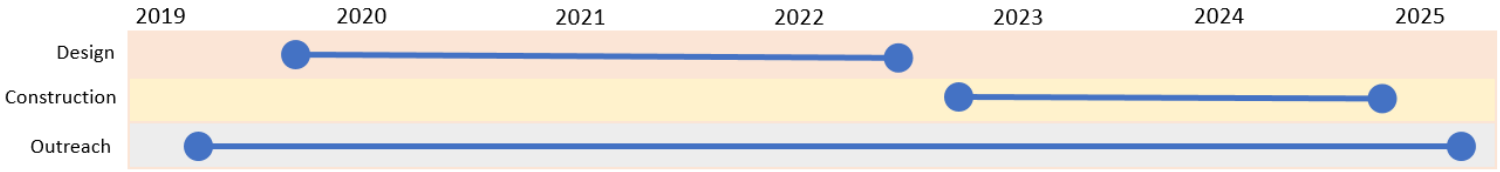
Welcome to the second Duckabush estuary restoration project newsletter! Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) is working in partnership with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) and the Hood Canal Salmon Enhancement Group (HCSEG) on the proposed restoration project. The project would reconnect the Duckabush River to neighboring floodplains and wetlands by modifying local roads and elevating Highway 101 onto a bridge spanning the area where freshwater from the Duckabush River meets saltwater of Hood Canal.

Project objectives include:

- Reconnect and restore lost tidally influenced areas including estuarine and tidal wetlands.
- Re-establish channels to promote greater diversity of delta wetland habitats.
- Restore mudflats and salt marsh.

Additional project information can be found at ***https://wdfw.wa.gov/duckabush***

Project Status and Conceptual Timeline



The project is early in the design phase, which is anticipated to take approximately 3 years. Refinements to the existing conceptual design will occur as data is collected during the design phase. WDFW is working with Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) to design a new highway bridge that would span the estuary. The Army Corps is designing other project elements such as reconnecting the estuary channels. Construction phase will last 2-3 years. At this time, funding is secured to complete the design phase. Engagement with the public will occur throughout the project.

Changes at the Former Fire Station

In 2018 HCSEG purchased the former fire station on Shorewood Road to make the property available for future estuary restoration. The station was not actively serving the public and was used for storage. The area is frequently flooded so this purchase allowed the fire department to relocate their storage to a safer, drier location. HCSEG expects to demolish the building in 2020.

State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA) Compliance

SEPA review helps decision-makers and the public understand how a government action would affect the environment. On July 13, 2019 the community showed an impressive turn-out for the SEPA scoping meeting held at the Brinnon School. Over 80 people came to hear about the project conceptual design and provide comments about the environmental impacts of the project. Public comments were received over 30 days in July and will inform the content of a draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (SEIS). The draft SEIS will be released this winter for a 30 day review and public comment period which will include a public meeting in the area. This SEIS supplements a previous environmental document issued by the Army Corps in 2016.

Site Surveys and Data Collection

Successful project design depends on understanding current site conditions. Survey crews are in the area over the next several months collecting data. If you see a flag or ribbon in the area these could be survey markers. Please leave them in place. The data collection will include:

- Elevation and wetland surveys
- Eelgrass and fish habitat surveys
- Aerial LiDAR imagery
- Geotechnical borings
- Cultural resource surveys

Accessing Private Lands

Most surveys are occurring on publicly-owned lands. To understand the larger picture of how water and sediment move across the area it is important for us to understand features of adjacent private parcels as well. Some nearby property owners will receive notification from project partners regarding access to their land for data collection purposes. Partners include WDFW, Army Corps, HCSEG, WSDOT, or any entity contracted by one of these partners. If you have any questions about these surveys, don't hesitate to reach out to us.

More Information

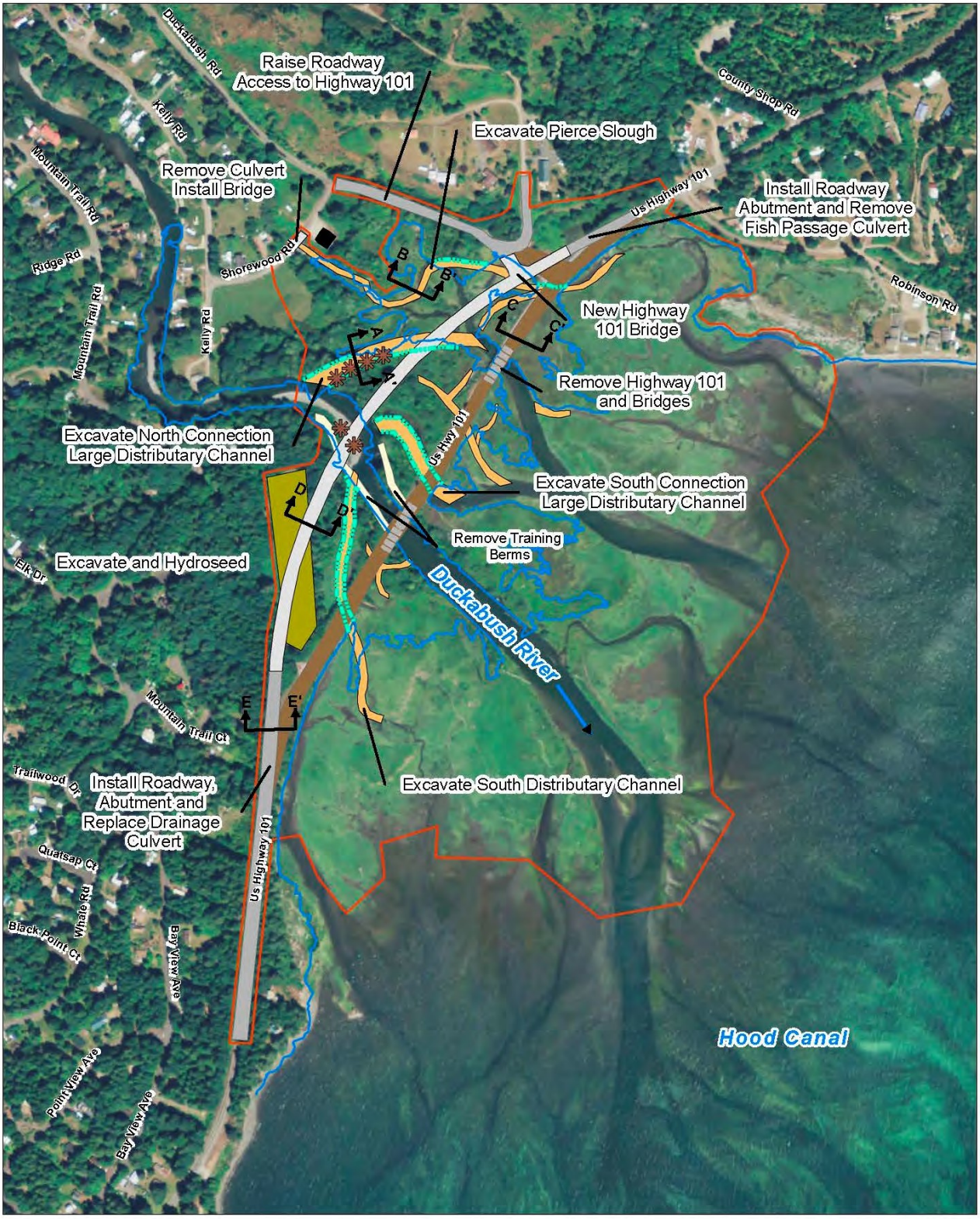
We expect this newsletter with project updates approximately 3-4 times per year or as important topics arise. **If you have questions, comments, or ideas about the project you can send them to one or all of the project contacts listed below.** Thank you for being part of such an enthusiastic and engaged community.

Theresa Mitchell (WDFW)
Theresa.Mitchell@dfw.wa.gov
(360) 902-2750

Seth Ballhorn (WDFW)
Seth.Ballhorn@dfw.wa.gov
(360) 791-4987

Mendy Harlow (HCSEG)
mendy@pnwsalmoncenter.org
(360) 275-3575 ext. 123

Conceptual Duckabush Estuary Project Design



Legend

- Hwy 101 Existing Bridges
- Large Wood Placement
- Existing Tide MHHW
- Proposed Tide MHHW
- Required Project Lands
- A A' Typical Cross Section
- New Bridge
- New Roadway
- Demolition/Removal
- Remove Bank Armor
- Channel Excavation
- Hydroseeding
- Buildings

DUCKABUSH CONVERSION

FIXED DATUM	TIDAL DATUM
	MHHW
	8.87 FEET
NAVD88	
	2.62 FEET MLLW

0.00 MHHW = 8.87 NAVD88
0.00 MLLW = -2.62 NAVD88

Source: Approximate VDATUM Seabeck Tide Gauge 944 5296

PUGET SOUND NEARSHORE ECOSYSTEM RESTORATION PROJECT

North

0 400 Feet